

## Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) In a service-oriented architecture in which a client invokes a Web service from a Web service provider over a communication path between said client and said Web service provider using a dynamically selected transport binding and in which said Web service invocation passes through one or more intermediary nodes along said communication path between said client and said server as end nodes, a method of invoking said Web service comprising the steps of:

~~selecting~~ having each pair of adjacent nodes along said communication path between said client and said server negotiate a transport binding for a portion of said Web service invocation from said Web service provider passing between said nodes in a selection-negotiation process over said communication path using a first transport binding between said nodes; and

~~conducting~~ having each pair of adjacent nodes conduct subsequent communications between said client and said Web service provider relating to the portion of said Web service invocation over said communication path passing between said nodes using the transport binding selected-negotiated in said selection-negotiation process using said first transport binding between said nodes.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which said client is on a client side of said communication path, said steps being performed on said client side of said communication path.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which said Web service provider is on a server side of said communication path, said steps being performed on said server side of said communication path.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 in which said client is on a client side of said communication path and said Web service provider is on a server side of said

communication path, said steps being performed on said client side and said server side of said communication path.

6-20. (Cancelled)